

Appl. No. : 10/781,574  
Filed : February 17, 2004

**REMARKS**

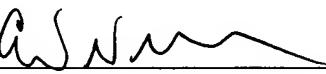
Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, without traverse, to proceed with examination on the merits of Group I, drawn to a magnetic read head using a gap fill layer comprising aluminum oxide, aluminum nitride and/or mixtures thereof. While Group I originally consisted of Claims 1-10 and 14-17, Claims 11-13 have been amended herein to depend from Claim 1 and thus should also now be included in this Group. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for examination on the merits and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: February 11, 2005

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